

FORMER SOLDIERS ASK EXPLANATION

Late Members of Disbanded
Coast Artillery Make De-
mand of General Sale.

SAY POLITICS PLAYED PART

Contend Guilty Men Should
Have Been Punished, and
Not Entire Corps.

Intimating that politics had something to do with the recent disbanding of the Coast Artillery Corps, following an investigation by a court of inquiry, the non-commissioned officers of the four companies which were so summarily ejected from the service, have addressed a letter to Adjutant General W. W. Sale asking for an explanation. They say they should have been mustered out instead of disbanded, and argue that the undesirable elements in the old organization could have been eliminated without putting the entire command under a badge of incompetence.

Further, the writers of the letter say they understand that the "prosecution" relied for evidence upon the testimony of a man whose record shows him to have been unworthy. As a final shot, they say that if the command is to be political, they may have a chance to enlist some politicians in its ranks.

Sale Defers Comment.
General Sale, who has been ill for several days, reached his office at noon yesterday and read the letter. He said he would take the matter up and indicate his purpose in the matter later on.

Former Adjutant-General Charles J. Anderson, who is referred to in the letter as the friend of the coast artillery, and placed in the light of sympathizing with it as against the infantry, also declined last night to discuss the matter in any of its bearings.

Apparently the intent of the letter is to charge that the influence of the infantry killed the coast artillery. Among militia officers last night there was a disposition to believe that this letter might result in the publication of the findings of the court of inquiry, which, it is understood, have been held back out of consideration of the feelings of the men of the corps.

Text of Letter.
The text of the letter is as follows: "Having waited in silence for some explanation from the military moguls of the State as to why we enlisted men were pushed out of the service without any forewarnings and what seems to us now to be without any redress for wrongs which have been unjustly inflicted upon us, and still being in ignorance as to the cause of such drastic means being taken, we earnestly implore you to lighten our burden by putting upon us the brand of the findings of your honorable military court or removing from us the public's pointed finger of scorn and disgust and letting us die a military organization in peace or one for which this grand old State must hang her head in shame."

"This information we think due to us, the War Department, the public and mainly the young men who are contemplating the formation of a new organization. How do they know but their fate might terminate in a same manner after they have put forth their time and efforts for an organization which they had grown to love, and how would they know that they were not doing wrong in taking into their ranks we men who were in the old organization and who in Richmond in that grand old book of war records might have opposite our names 'incompetent,' 'disbanded' for the good of the service, or many other charges that might greatly handicap an organization in getting to that mark of proficiency and fame which all loyal citizens would like to see it have?"

Pain Heaped on Them.

"There have been among us a few who could no longer bear the pain that was heaped upon us in not knowing the court's military judgment upon us, and these few have burst forth in pleas to Richmond for a paper of some kind to show that they have been honorably discharged from the service or that they are not men that would be ashamed to ask another organization to enlist them, and in answer to these pleas there have been given but few words of encouragement and hope to these men that they shall ever know how their military records stand in Richmond, but in each case they have been referred

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for information as they desired to the company commander under whom they served, and which commanders, as we understand, are upon the records of the military court as incompetent officers. Surely any fair-minded person can see that if they were incompetent to act as officers that they cannot be competent enough to pass just judgment upon the military bearing and record of those who were under.

"We do not question the honesty or the procedure of the military court that investigated the coast artillery, but we do contend that it was the duty of the court to find who the error and yourself to find who those were that were guilty of incompetence and have had them court-martialed and then ordered a new election of officers. Instead of making us suffer for the sins or lack of knowledge of some officers, who, although incompetent, were commissioned in Richmond."

"In the examination of these new officers in Richmond you and the examining board would have been able to reject those that were not suitable and given to us officers who were capable and who could have gotten rid of those undesirable elements which are bound to creep into all such organizations. We cannot believe that this court could have found us all incompetent, but that we will have to think until you in some manner enlighten us, as we were all given the same treatment. We know the court in the land that would convict a man without giving him some chance of defense. This was not given to an enlisted man in the service but one, and his military record, as the men know him, shows nothing but incompetency, insubordination and all else that would be detrimental to the control and good standing of a military organization, and this is the man, we understand, whose testimony, the prosecution relied upon."

Infantry's Aims.

"We have heard for some time the feeling of the infantry towards us, and have in our possession letters from our military friend, former Adjutant-General Anderson, apprising us of the animosity held against us by the infantry. We are constantly hearing the remark made by the public that the order for disbandment was caused by political influence used by the infantry. We do not say that such is the truth, but if such is true, how are we to know and what can we expect but that we will be treated in the same manner if we were to again organize?"

"Since the State must have a certain amount of coast artillery to comply with the Dick and War Department orders and in order to get their yearly allowance from the War Department to maintain the militia and as the State and War Department are at this time advocating strongly the formation of new coast artillery companies, it is our duty to the kind of inducements to the men, would it not be just and proper to these men and the public, who were taxed to partly maintain them, to show where the disbanded coast artillery men erred, so that this new organization may not fall into the same rut, and to lay down some requirements of the men in such an organization so that if it is to be a political fight as well as a military organization that organizers may have the chance to enlist into ranks politicians as well as soldiers."

"We feel sure that there are among us some who have done their State justice and who are competent enough to still make for her good soldiers and it is for these that we feel assured that you will spare time to explain as to their military standing in the State and why we were not mustered out as any organization should be when disbanded."

Building Permits.

Building and repair permits were issued yesterday as follows:
M. D. Nunnally, to erect a one-story brick garage, in rear of 713 South Laurel Street, to cost \$200.
Old Dominion Distilling Company, to repair a frame rectifying house on Stockton Street between Third and Fourth Streets, South Richmond, to cost \$600.
National Bank and City Bank, to repair brick bank building, 1109 East Main Street, to cost \$400.

WILL AGAIN PUSH OLD WHARTON LAW

Judge Williams Proposes to Go
After Tariff Association
Next Winter.

A bill will be introduced in the Legislature next winter by Judge Martin Williams, of Giles, to revive the terms of the old Wharton law, which prohibited a combination for the purpose of controlling rates on fire insurance in Virginia. Judge Williams, who spent yesterday in Richmond, made this statement. He had already been renominated for the House, and will likely occupy the same position as before—that of Democratic floor leader.

The law in question was introduced by General G. C. Wharton and was passed, but repealed by the next Legislature. It would put the Southern Underwriters' Association completely out of business. Judge Williams has reintroduced it twice, each time getting it through the House, only to fail in the Senate. He will devote his efforts next winter largely to securing its passage.

Judge Williams also reiterated his determination to propose a drastic law to punish corrupt practices in elections. He recently made this statement before the Democratic mass meetings of each of his counties of Giles and Bland, prior to the pledging of their delegates to him, so that there could be no misunderstanding his position. This was published in The Times-Dispatch at the time. He left for his home at Pearisburg last night.

MUST CHANGE SCHEDULE

Six Committees Now Down to Meet on
Alderman Night.

Postponement of the meeting of the Board of Aldermen to Tuesday night will necessitate a rearrangement of the committee schedule for the week. Since the ordinance requiring semi-monthly pay rolls was introduced, the schedule has been so arranged that the night of the 15th or 16th of each month would be the night of the Board of Aldermen meeting, which, on account of the bridge award and other matters, is probably the most important meeting this Board has held since its election. Chairman Umlauf has announced that he would postpone the meeting of the Ordinance Committee, Chairman Adams will take similar action with regard to the Street Committee, provided no allegations have been issued of late night, in which case they will have to be heard, and Chairman Pollard will, no doubt, postpone the Finance Committee meeting. As there are such meetings later in the week, postponement to Thursday or Friday night will be a simple matter.

BONES BADLY BROKEN

Mrs. Garland Severely Injured in Run-
away Accident.

With both bones in the right limb badly broken as the result of being thrown from her buggy, Mrs. J. P. Garland, widow of Rev. J. P. Garland, one of the best-known ministers of the State, was brought to Richmond yesterday morning. The bones were broken at the Johnston-Willis Hospital, where Mrs. Garland was resting well last night. Her physicians state that she will recover.

Mrs. Garland left Toano for her country home early yesterday morning, and had driven about three miles, when the horse became frightened and bolted. Both she and her nephew, who was driving, were thrown out, and Mrs. Garland was hurled against a telephone pole, the broken limb resulting. Dr. H. U. Stephenson, who had the fast train for Richmond stopped at Toano, and brought Mrs. Garland to Richmond. An X-ray photograph of the broken part was taken, which was pronounced by the attending physicians as a remarkable piece of work.

MAY BUILD HOME HERE

Knights of Columbus to Look After
Neglected Children.

Members of Richmond Council, No. 395, Knights of Columbus, are confident that the proposed Virginia Children, Neglected and Incurable Children, regardless of religious creed, which the State council proposes to establish, will be located in Richmond. The other points under consideration are Charlottesville and Staunton. At the meeting of the Virginia Council this week in Norfolk, a committee was appointed to investigate the project and make a definite report at the next annual meeting, which will be held next Tuesday in May, at Portsmouth. Walter Conaty and Thomas A. Murphy were representatives to the State meeting. They have returned to Richmond, enthusiastic over the probability of the establishment of the institution in this city.

ALVIS HEIRS LOSE

Suit to Recover Weyanoke Estate
Thrown Out of Court.

On the ground of lack of jurisdiction, Judge Grinnan, in the Chancery Court, yesterday sustained the demurrer, thus throwing out of court the suit brought by William L. Royce on behalf of the Alvis heirs, against E. A. Saunders, Jr., for possession of the home known as the Weyanoke estate. Mr. Royce indicated his intention of appealing on the point raised by the demurrer to the Supreme Court. Judge Grinnan pointed out that though sufficient ground did not appear for a suit in the Chancery Court at Charlottesville, it was possible that the case might be tried on its merits in another jurisdiction—the Circuit Court of the judicial circuit in which the Weyanoke tract lies.

Circuit Court of Appeals.

The United States Circuit Court of Appeals reconvened yesterday morning at 11 o'clock, with Circuit Judges Goff and Pittsford and District Judges Waddill, Boyd and Keller in attendance.

The following case was argued:
No. 1020—George C. Sturgis, Morgan town and Kingwood Railroad Company, et al, appellants, vs. Jacob Meurer, appellant and appellee, and W. J. Logan, Dick S. Ramsay, et al, appellees; cross appeals from the District Court at Charlottesville, Va. In bankruptcy. Cause argued by R. M. Ambler, of Parkersburg, W. Va., for the appellants, and by Reese Blizard, of Parkersburg, W. Va., for Jacob Meurer, and appellees, and submitted. Case in call to-day.

No. 1031—The Norfolk and Atlantic Terminal Company, plaintiff in error, vs. Frank Polito, defendant in error. In error to the Circuit Court at Norfolk. To be argued by W. H. Venable, of Norfolk, and Henry W. Anderson, of Richmond, for the plaintiff in error, and by Jeffries, Wolcott, Lankford & Lankford, of Norfolk, for the defendant in error.



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PROMINENT WOMAN SUFFRAGISTS, TAKEN AT THEIR HEADQ
Left to right: Mrs. Mary H. Page, Boston; Miss Harriet May Mills, Rev. Mrs. Lucy Anthony, Mrs. Donald Hooker, Baltimore; Mrs. Katherine Hepker, Boston; Mrs. Mary Wade Bennett, Miss Jennie Ashley.

AMUSEMENTS

Bljuu—"Salome Jane."
Lubin—Vaudeville.

Crowds at the Bljuu.

Miss Emma Bunting and her stock company are making a wonderful first week record at the Bljuu Theatre. "Salome Jane" is a good, clean production, and Miss Bunting's work does not suffer by comparison with other women who have made it famous. Next week's attraction will be "The Princess Fatches," which carries a love theme and a dash of high-class comedy.

WOODSTOCK NARROWLY ESCAPES DESTRUCTION

More Than a Dozen Buildings on Fire at One Time, but Flames Finally Controlled.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.) Woodstock, Va., May 11.—A stable belonging to C. W. Burner, in the South End of this place, caught on fire today in an unknown manner. A brisk wind blew the sparks over town, and after an hour's hard fighting, the fire was controlled, but only after buildings in three squares had ignited from the sparks. More than a dozen buildings were on fire at once time and eight of them were consumed. This was the first serious fire since the installation of water works. But for the water system, the town would have been destroyed.

NICHOLSON MOTHERS' CLUB ELECTS OFFICERS FOR YEAR

The Mothers' Club of the Nicholson School held its final meeting in the assembly hall of the Nicholson School yesterday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock.

A review of the work done by this organization showed that the school grounds have been improved, and where last year there was only bare ground and weeds, there is now a well arranged privet hedge and flowers. About 500 books have been placed at the disposal of the pupils, and arrangements are being made whereby pupils can have access to them during the vacation months. The idea is to make this collection of books a community library rather than simply a school library.

A committee was appointed to act with a similar committee of teachers to arrange a program for the closing of the school, at which time the club will present to the school a handsome picture for the assembly hall. Dr. J. A. C. Chandler will address the citizens of Fulton at that time.

The following officers were chosen for next year: Mrs. Richard L. Eacho, president; Miss Jennie Lawson, vice-president; Mrs. B. L. Beams, recording secretary; Mrs. P. B. Thompson, corresponding secretary; Mrs. H. F. Garber, treasurer.

OPERATE ON INDIAN

"Dennis" Offered to Go Under Knife Without the Use of Ether.

Following in the footsteps of his paleface brothers, "Dennis," a full-blooded Indian, of White House, Va., contracted appendicitis, and it became necessary for him to undergo an operation. He was brought to Richmond yesterday and operated upon in the Virginia Hospital by Dr. Stuart McGuire.

Trouble occasioned by the appendix is rare among the Indian tribe, it is said, and there are few cases on record in which they have become victims of the so-called fashionable ailment.

The atoleism of his ancestors asserted itself when "Dennis" was placed upon the operating table. He was willing to go under the knife without any anesthetic, but offered no objection when the surgeon insisted upon administering ether.

The Indian successfully passed through the ordeal, and his condition last night was said to be satisfactory.

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An Offer to Prove the Merit of Digestit---The New Remedy for Indigestion and Stomach Disorders

The Makers Allow Local Druggists to Supply Without Cost a Limited Number of Full Size Packages. A Proof of Merit.

If you know the distress symptoms in indigestion, who experience the many discomforts of upset stomachs, were assured beyond a doubt—if you knew positively your druggist could supply a remedy that would relieve you instantly and cure you permanently, you would get a package quick, wouldn't you?

There is such a remedy—it is called Digestit, and can be had from all first-class drug stores. You do not have to take anybody's word for it—prove its merit by trying it yourself. Your druggist will furnish a full size package without cost to a limited number of people.

This liberal offer is made to show you beyond a question of doubt the wonderful merit of Digestit. If you are a victim you cannot afford to miss this opportunity to get relief. Go to your druggist now and get a package, as it will be furnished only to a limited number.

Digestit is a harmless medicine absolutely free from poisonous or habit-forming drugs—it digests food in a natural way and supplies nutriment to the famished body.

Drug stores throughout the country have been supplied with this remarkable medicine and are authorized to sell it at 60c a package, with the distinct understanding that your money will be refunded if you are not pleased with result.

YOUNG MAY OPPOSE CONGRESSMAN HOLLAND

Indicates That He Will Be Candidate, and Friends Declare Party Opposed Him Unchecked.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.) Suffolk, Va., May 11.—In an interview today William A. Young, of Norfolk, though declining to make a positive declaration, indicated that he will be a candidate for Congress against Representative Edward Everett Holland, of the Second Virginia District, next year. Young has twice been awarded the election certificate over Wise, but was unseated by a Republican Congress. Last summer he was given the certificate of nomination over Representative Harry L. Maynard, but at a second primary ordered because of alleged fraud, Holland won in a hold of four.

Young's friends claim that the Democratic party owes him an uncollected debt.

CAROLINA ASSOCIATION

At Greensboro: Greensboro, 5; Greenville, 2.
At Spartanburg: Charlotte, 5; Spartanburg, 23.
At Winston-Salem: Winston-Salem-Anderson postponed. Anderson failed to show up account train late.

Jones and Glass to Speak.

The following announcements for public speaking by Representatives Jones and Glass were made yesterday by the Virginia Democratic League:
Mr. Jones—Lovingston, Nelson county, May 22; Amherst, June 12.
Mr. Glass—Fairfax Courthouse, May 15; Saluda, Middlesex county, May 22; Accomac Courthouse, June 5; Goosefield Courthouse, June 12.

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